

Commercial



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HONOLULU, HAWAII TERRITORY, FRIDAY, MAY 16, 1902.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

WORKING FOR FIRE CLAIMS

All Hawaiians in Washington Busy.

WRITE AGAINST! COURTS BILL

Protests Based on Alleged Incongruity—Railroad and Tramways Franchises.

(Special to The Advertiser.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 2.—The success of the Territorial Senate apportionment bill in Congress now seems assured. As I stated in the last mail, the bill passed the House a few days ago without any amendment or debate, having been brought up there by Representative Powers, of Maine, one of the men who drew the bill. Governor Dole told the Congressional committees when he was here that this was the most important measure pending before Senate and House. They have taken him at his word. As the bill is now clear of the House its passage by the Senate at an early date, as soon as it is favorably reported by the Senate committee, may be anticipated. This may be done before the present advice reach Honolulu. In any event it is as good as settled that the apportionment bill will become law.

Collector Stackable is now assured of relief from the obligations imposed on his bondsmen because of the loss of \$30,000 on the steamer Rio Janeiro, as the bill has gone to the President and received his signature.

THE FIRE CLAIMS.

All the Hawaiians now in town are working shoulder to shoulder to help the fire claims bill along. It was Mr. William Haywood's idea to have an identical note addressed to the State Department by the Chinese, Portuguese and Japanese Ministers, asking an adjudication of the fire losses, as many of those who lost their houses were foreign subjects. They are making good progress. Mr. J. G. Pratt has been at the Capitol much of the time in the last few days talking the subject over with Senators and members.

OUR LABOR CONDITIONS.

Hon. Carroll D. Wright, Commissioner of Labor, has written to Chairman Knox, of the House committee on territories, recommending a change in the organic act, making it the duty of the United States Commissioner of Labor to collect, assort and present in annual reports statistical details relating to all departments of labor in the Territory of Hawaii. Mr. Wright thinks that a longer interval for the reports would be far preferable, once in four or five years. "Changes are not great and rapid enough to warrant the expense of collecting the necessary data and preparing reports to Congress annually."

The House committee on territories has taken no action yet looking to such an amendment, but may before Congress adjourns.

HAWAIIAN APPEALS COURT.

Several weeks ago Representative Mondell, of Wyoming, introduced a bill, copies of which were sent to Honolulu, for providing a final Court of Appeals in the Territory, and thus to avoid the expense and delay of having appeals settled on the Federal courts of the mainland. No action has yet been taken on the bill, which, Mr. Mondell says, originated largely with Mr. J. G. Pratt, but there has been some criticism from high quarters. Senator Perkins, of California, has written to the House authorities calling attention to some of the results of having appeals taken before the United States District Court of the Territory.

"A criticism of this provision is made," writes Senator Perkins, "which I think is worthy of consideration. It is held that to compel appeals to be taken will cause all constitutional and other questions of national and international importance to be finally passed upon by a simple Territorial court, making the United States Courts of Hawaii subordinate to the local Supreme Court. It is further alleged that the bill is an attempt to accomplish indirectly what cannot be done directly in the Pearl Harbor and other im-

portant cases before the United States Courts, and that should the provision become a law another phase would be put upon certain important cases in which the United States is an interested party. It would seem that the criticism is well taken that it would be contrary to all precedent to have an appeal from a United States Court to a Territorial Court."

This letter was written by Senator Perkins under date of April 19 to Chairman Hitt, of the committee on foreign affairs of the House, and by him referred to Mr. Knox, chairman of the committee on territories.

Dudley & Michener, attorneys in this city, have written Representative Robinson, of Indiana, a member of the House committee on territories, relative to the same subject. These attorneys are former residents of Hoosierdom; hence their communication to Mr. Robinson. Under date of April 26 they write that they represent Americans residing on the Pacific Coast, who have interests in the Territory of Hawaii. They quote the portion of Mr. Mondell's bill, which reads: "Write of error and appeals from said District Court shall be had and allowed to the Supreme Court of the Territory of Hawaii, in the same manner as writs of error and appeals are allowed from the Circuit Court of said Territory to the Supreme Court thereof, as provided by law. They then call attention to the conditions of the existing law regarding a Federal District Court in Hawaii, and conclude as follows:

"If Mr. Mondell's bill should become a law, we would have the strange anomaly of a court of the United States, with all the powers of the District and Circuit Courts of the United States, put on a plane inferior to the Supreme Court of a territory, and with the right to appeal to that court only."

"We think nothing more need be said about this bill, except to express surprise that it should be introduced at all."

THE OKLAHOMA JOB.

Mr. L. A. Thurston, as vice president of the Hilo Railroad Company, has filed with the House committee on territories a protest against DeLoach's bill to grant right of way through the Islands of the Territory of Hawaii to the Hawaiian Railroad Company, an Oklahoma corporation. In three typewritten pages, Mr. Thurston sets forth that he claims no monopoly for the Hilo road, but explains the conditions under which railroads have been built in the Islands. "I submit," says Mr. Thurston, "that it is just that any other railroad company desiring to operate in the same territory should be subjected to the same terms, obligations and conditions as the existing railroad companies, and also that every purely local railroad should be subject to the control of the local authorities."

THE TRAMWAYS BILL.

Mr. Thurston has also submitted another protest, covering ten typewritten pages, against the bill to permit the Hawaiian Tramways Company, Limited, to use and maintain electric traction. He points out that this is an English corporation, whose chief office is in London, where a large majority of its stock is held, the only representative in Hawaii being William H. Paine. Mr. Thurston, as president of the Honolulu Rapid Transit Company, sets forth the history of the Tramways Company, its bitter and relentless opposition to every progressive step taken by the Rapid Transit Company; calls attention to Mr. Paine's ardent royalist sympathies during the pre-annexation period; mentions the proceedings before the Legislature in Hawaii relative to the Tram Company, the litigation in the local courts, and submits that it is inequitable for the granting of any additional franchise by such a company. Mr. Thurston also cites the broad principle that such matters should not be dealt with by Congress, but by the local Legislature.

HARTWELL ON LAND HOLDINGS.

Representative Francis G. Newlands, of Nevada, has turned over to the House committee on territories a copy of a letter which Mr. A. S. Hartwell, of Honolulu, wrote him before leaving for his home. In this letter Judge Hartwell invites Representative and Mrs. Newlands to visit Hawaii this summer, in company with Representative and Mrs. Knox, of Massachusetts, and Dr. and Mrs. Pritchett, "in order to judge of our conditions, and be able to suggest an intelligent way of carrying out the plan for small land owners. If you and the others will arrange to go," writes Judge Hartwell, "I will assure you an enjoyable stay."

In the course of his letter, which covers three typewritten pages, Judge Hartwell undertakes to show to Mr. Newlands that his amendment to the organic act to prevent large land holdings by corporations "is not accomplishing that object, but is working a degree of harm and injustice which I am sure you would deplore." The Judge points out that sugar plantations to succeed had to have much more than the specified area, and that 2000 acres is indispensable for success. New plantations are unlikely under present conditions, the Judge writes, and then recites how the community of interests plan may have to be adopted. The Judge points out how the small holders of lands often want to sell but are deprived of a buyer in the big plantations by Mr. Newlands' amendment. He cites how small proprietors have no market in Hawaii for most of the crops they raise, as California products can be sent to Honolulu more cheaply. The rice crops, he says, must always remain with the Chinese, and coffee is not giving satisfactory returns to investment. "There remains," continues the Judge, "practically the sugar industry, which requires large land holdings and enormous sums of money to be made profitable. To wipe out that industry with

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ST. PIERRE ENGULFED IN FIRE FROM A VOLCANO

The Martinique Capital Totally Destroyed and Twenty-five Thousand People Lose Their Lives.

PARIS, May 9.—The commander of the French cruiser Suchet has telegraphed to the Minister of Marine, M. de Lanesan, from Fort de France, Island of Martinique, under date of Thursday, May 8th, at 10 p. m., as follows:

"Have just returned from St. Pierre, which has been completely destroyed by an immense mass of volcanic fire, which fell on the town at about eight in the morning. The entire population (about 25,000 souls) is supposed to have perished. I have brought back the few survivors, about 30. All the shipping in the harbor has been destroyed by fire. The eruption continues."

ASHES AND DUST.

PARIS, May 9.—M. Biuguenot, a sugar planter of the Island of Martinique, received a cable dispatch this morning from Fort de France, sent by the manager of the Francais factory, announcing that he had "tried to reach St. Pierre, but found the coast covered with ashes and the town enveloped in dust and could not land."

T. THOMAS, D. W. L., May 8.

p. m.—The British steamer Roddam, Captain Freeman, which left St. Lucia Wednesday for Martinique, returned there at 5 o'clock this afternoon, bringing a report that the town of St. Pierre, Martinique, has been totally destroyed by volcanic disturbances in the Island. Almost all the inhabitants of St. Pierre are said to have been killed. The Roddam reports that all the shipping in the port has also been destroyed. The Quebec Steamship Company's steamer Rorima is mentioned as lost, with all on board.

The Roddam was almost completely wrecked. Her captain was seriously burned and seventeen of her crew are dead.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 8.—Advices came today from Louis H. Ayne, United States Consul at Guadeloupe, who, in addition to reporting that seismic disturbances had occurred there, said that he had been informed that hundreds of people had been killed in and about Martinique.

Guadeloupe and Martinique are neighboring islands, both belonging to France. Consul Ayne reported that

telegraphic communications with Martinique were broken in every direction. He said also that great consternation prevailed in the vicinity of his post in consequence of the earthquakes and volcanic activity.

Loud noises were heard continuously, he said, and these were ascribed to volcanic action. Guadeloupe recently suffered terribly from an earthquake. Only last month hundreds of lives were lost in Guatemala from the same cause.

LONDON, May 9.—A dispatch to the Daily Mail from St. Pierre, Martinique, dated Thursday, says that the eruption of Mont Pelee continues. The Guerin factory was overwhelmed with boiling mud on Monday. Twenty-four persons are known to have been killed. A dispatch to the Times from St. Thomas, dated Thursday, says that smoke and fire from St. Vincent are visible from St. Lucia. It is reported that the craters on the Island of Dominica are showing signs of activity. Detonations are audible in all the northern islands.

A VESSEL LOST.

NEW YORK, May 9.—There were three passengers on the Quebec Steamship Company's steamer Rorima, which is supposed to have been lost with all on board in the harbor of St. Pierre. These passengers were F.

ROYAL HAWAIIAN FEATHER CLOAK FOR SALE IN THE EAST

A Relic of the Old Days of Island Royalty Offered to the National Museum at Washington.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 1.

Prof. Otis T. Mason, anthropologist of the National Museum, received an offer one day last week of an object that has not been on the market for over a century, and which is not likely to be again offered for sale in the next two centuries. Mr. Henry Chapman, of Philadelphia, entered Prof. Mason's office in the museum, and to his utter astonishment spread out for his inspection a beautiful Hawaiian feather mantle, a specimen of an art that is now extinct, offering to sell the treasure for the sum of \$5,000.

It appears that some time after the discovery of the Sandwich Islands by Capt. Cook a young German settled there, became a trader among the natives, and soon made a fortune. During his residence in the islands he had occasion to perform a service for one of the princes of the blood royal, a man of advanced years and the hero of many battles, and out of gratitude the old chief presented the German with his own feather mantle. Subsequently this German trader settled in Philadelphia, where he formed a lasting friendship with Mr. Chapman's father, a man of wealth, with a fancy for collecting rare works of art, and to whom the old German gave the feather mantle. The father on his death bequeathed it to his son, Mr. Henry Chapman, who has decided to sell this rare and curious object of art.

These feather mantles were formerly worn only by members of the blood royal of the Sandwich Islands, who made laws that punished with death any person caught in the act of shoot-

ing or killing birds of three different species from which the feathers for such mantles were obtained. These tropical birds were of bright plumage, red, yellow, black and green, and only certain skilled workmen understood the art of making these feather mantles, which, like the ermine robes of the European monarchs, were an emblem of royalty. The mantles were made by sewing the quill end of the feathers to a sheet of very stout and closely woven cloth, and in single fashion, one overlapping the other just as they lay on the bird, and so dense that, when finished, the mantle looked like the skin of a gigantic and bright-hued bird.

The shading of colors was in perfect harmony, the workmen sometimes spending an entire week matching feathers until they found two of the right shade. Frequently it took twenty or thirty years to make one of these mantles, and hundreds of birds were slaughtered to obtain materials. The royal robe, or mantle, of Kamehameha the Great, is said to have kept four workmen busy for a period of thirty years. With the coming of the white man and the consequent demoralization of the natives, the art was lost, and with the dethronement of the royal family disappeared altogether.

Mr. Chapman's mantle is pierced by two holes, made by a spear in the hands of an enemy, who wounded the original wearer twice during a famous battle between two rival factions. The color of the mantle in Mr. Chapman's possession is red, yellow, and black, and worked in square, triangle and lozenge pattern. The National Museum cannot buy this work of art except by act of Congress, and it remains to be seen whether or not that body will allow the museum to become the possessor of this rare and curious object. The price, \$5,000, is considered cheap by those who know the value of these mantles.

Hince, Mrs. J. Hince and Mrs. Stokes. All lived in the West Indies. At the Quebec Steamship Company's offices here no news had been received here either from Captain Mungah, the commander of the vessel, or from any of the West Indian agents of the line.

At the offices of the Danish and French Consuls nothing had been heard directly of the present conditions in the destroyed district.

ST. VINCENT THREATENED.

LONDON, May 9.—The Colonial office here has received a dispatch from Sir Robert Llewellyn, Governor of the Windward Islands, in the Caribbean Sea, dated from Kingston, St. Vincent, yesterday, in which the Governor says that the Soufriere volcano, in the north-western part of the Island of St. Vincent, continued in activity. Earth shocks had occurred for a week past but not actually in Kingston. On Wednesday a big cloud of steam hung over the Soufriere and the inhabitants, who were greatly alarmed, were flocking to Chateau de Belaire. There were already 300 refugees there who were being fed by the authorities.

BUSINESS AGENTS TALK.

PORTLAND, Me., May 9.—News of the catastrophe at St. Pierre, Island of Martinique, was of deep interest to the firm of J. P. Hamlen & Co. of this city, which is said to be the only New England business house with an office at St. Pierre. Besides dealing in northern lumber, the Hamlens are interested in the sugar industry there and hold considerable property. Their loss will be heavy.

J. C. Hamlen, the junior member of the firm, says there were no New England people at the island connected with the business and he believes that none but natives were killed. He also is of the opinion that no New England or American vessels were in port, as the season for shipping lumber, ice and coal is over.

DOOMED CITY OF ST. PIERRE.

Modern Pompeii Recently Had Population of 23,500.

St. Pierre, formerly the second but for the last thirty years the principal city and part of the Island of Martinique, had by late census a population of about 23,500 souls. It is situated on the northwest coast of the island, about 15 miles above Fort de France, the capital.

It was founded in 1635 by Esnambac and is one of the most picturesque cities in the whole West Indies. Its botanical gardens are among the finest in the world. It lies on a bight of the northwest coast of the island, where the slopes of Mont Pelee and the three-crested Cabret come together at the sea. The warehouses and factories lie on the small piece of flat ground next to the sea, while the residences are up on the hillsides. It has no harbors properly speaking, but the roadstead is well protected by the island itself except on the west and southwest. The country around is very populous, as is in fact the whole island, on some part of which there are more people to the square mile than even in the thickly settled industrial centers of England or Belgium.

Sloping up from the city on the northeast and the southeast respectively, at a distance of five miles, Mont Pelee and the three-crested Cabret culminate in sharp peaks some 4450 feet in height, clothed with verdure to the very points.

Mont Pelee, though generally quietest, was in a state of eruption in the year 1851, when much damage was done. The whole island is covered with mountains set with numerous cones all at one time volcanic, as is attested by the great masses of scoria and lava intervening between them and compassing parts of their sides and summits.

The population of Martinique is about 168,000, of whom some 17,000 are whites and Asiatics, the rest being negroes.

The Korima, Captain Muggah, which was destroyed at St. Pierre, left New York April 25 for St. Thomas, where she arrived May 2. From St. Thomas she proceeded to St. Croix, de Maure, etc.

Hawaii Senatorial Bill.

WASHINGTON, May 6.—The Senate today passed the Wilcox bill, apportioning the terms of Territorial Senators in Hawaii. All are to serve four years from the date of election, except the following, who serve two years: First District, N. Russell and J. D. Paris; Second, William White, D. Kanaha, George R. Carter and William C. Achi; Fourth, I. H. Kahilina.

Governor Dole's Movements.

NEW YORK, May 9.—Governor Dole of the Hawaiian Islands, who is in this city, en route to Washington, said in discussing the recent political agitation in Hawaii:

"Constant petitions and letters have been sent to Washington by the opposition, but I don't think they have affected the President seriously."

Earthquakes in Spain.

MADRID, May 9.—Earthquakes were felt at Alicante, Murcia and Elche, on the southeastern coast of Spain, last night. Panics followed, but there were no fatalities.

May in New York.

SARANAC LAKE, N. Y., May 9.—A heavy snowstorm is raging here today, the temperature registering 39 degrees.

Cholera in Manila.

MANILA, May 9.—The cholera statistics to date are as follows: Manila, 567 cases and 706 deaths; the provinces, 2452 cases and 1485 deaths.

HAWAII'S BILLS IN CONGRESS

A Lively Battle on Apportionment Measure.

ISLANDS MAY HAVE REVENUE CUTTER

Rumor That Sam Parker Has Com-promised the Ditch Issue Alarms McCrosson.

WASHINGTON, May 7.

Pacific Commercial Advertiser, Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands, Per S. S. Nippon Maru, from San Francisco.

House apportionment bill passed Senate yesterday, now with President for signature. Knox accepts quarantine compromise.

ERNEST G. WALKER.

(Special to The Advertiser.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 3.—A merry fight in the Senate over the question of territorial apportionment seems in prospect. Mr. George R. Carter has returned here, after a brief sojourn again in Rochester, N. Y., where he was a guest at a dinner party with Lord Kelvin, to take up the fight in behalf of an apportionment bill more to his liking. His slogan is two short-term Republicans, two short-term Democrats, and three short-term Home Rulers.

Mr. Carter has remained over here so long now that he is very anxious to get back to Hawaii, but he did not want to appear in the guise of running away from the fight and he did not want to quit when there was prospect of defeating such a bill as that which passed the House. Something like snap-shot judgment on the situation was taken there and Mr. Carter feels that the Republicans of the House did not do all they ought to have done for the struggling Republican party in Hawaii. He was one of the delegates from Hawaii to the Congress of the Sons of the American Revolution, which has just adjourned here, but was unable to get back to Washington in time to attend. His two colleagues, who came on here as delegates from Hawaii, have departed, being now in New York.

Senator Foraker has promised to take up the apportionment bill next Monday at a meeting of the committee, but the matter may be postponed till the committee may consider the fire claims question. Hon. William Haywood has gotten Senator Foraker and others interested in the question and there is some hope of getting a provision on the sundry civil appropriation bill, which is now before the Senate and being considered for amendment. As that matter is of so much importance to the Islands, Mr. Carter is willing to give way for it. He feels that he can not stay much longer in Washington, because of the press of business matters in Hawaii, but he wants to help his apportionment plan along as much as possible before he leaves.

Mr. Edgar Cayless is working like a tiger to get the House apportionment bill through the Senate, as he regards it as a substantial gain for the Home Rulers, whom he is ardently championing. He has succeeded in some fashion in getting Senator Blackburn, of Kentucky, a Democrat, lined up with his proposition. It remains to be seen how much headway can be made in that direction. Senator Foraker professes to be friendly to Mr. Carter's plan, but it is by no means certain yet whether it will get out of committee.

Mr. W. O. Smith and Mr. F. M. Hatch have been here a few days looking after the quarantine matter. They have conferred with Dr. Walter Wyman, Surgeon General of the Marine Hospital Service, and with Attorney General Knox. They have met with great success and expect that the plan of compromise, agreed upon before they left Honolulu, will be carried out. Successful has been their mission that

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